

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. Process for the hydrogenation of a polymer
composed of conjugated diene monomer units and a
nitrile group-containing monomer units, in which
hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of
hydrazine, and an oxidizing compound, wherein the
hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of an
antioxidant comprising more than 6 carbon atoms
and chosen from a derivative of a substituted
aromatic alcohol, of dihydroquinoline, of
benzimidazole or of an aromatic secondary amine
whereby the antioxidant is added to the polymer
prior to hydrogenation, with the use of NBR that
is polymerized in the presence of an
antidegradant being excluded.
2. Process according to claim 1, wherein NBR is used
as polymer.
3. Process according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic
secondary amine derivative is a p-phenylenediamine
derivative.
4. Process according to claim 1, wherein N-
isopropyl-N'-phenyl-p-phenylenediamine is used as
antioxidant.
5. Process according to claim 1, wherein the
hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of a
compound which contains an element from group 13
of the periodic system as catalyst, including the
use as polymer of NBR that is polymerized in the
presence of a polymerizable antidegradant.

6. Process according to claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of a metal ion activator as catalyst.
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7. Process according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of hydrazine compound/double bonds is between 0.9/1 and 2/1.
- 10 8. Process according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of oxidizing compound/double bonds is between 0.9/1 and 2/1.
- 15 9. Process according to claim 1, wherein the oxidizing compound is added to the reaction mixture after hydrazine.
10. Process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is present in the latex form.
- 20 11. Process according to claim 1, wherein the oxidizing compound is hydrogen peroxide.

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